



## TAFT BACK ON THE JOB

### Interviewed on His Political Boom.

## SAIL FOR PHILIPPINES

### September 1st and Will Not Postpone Trip to Take Stump in Ohio.

## IS ADMINISTRATION FAVORITE

### Political Caldron is Once More At the Boiling Point, Though Republican Convention is Far Off—Many Others Have Aspirations.

WASHINGTON, April 23.—Secretary Taft today resumed his routine duties at the White House. It is doubtful if in his Washington experience the Secretary has ever had to deal with more newspaper men than he saw today. They were mainly desirous of learning just what the Secretary intended to do in answer to the challenge which Senator Foraker has issued in regard to the contest in Ohio. Taft frankly told the newspapermen that he had been away for a long time, that he had but scanty news of political events during his absence and he did not think this a proper time for him to make any kind of a statement of his opinions and plans. One point was developed in the course of the talk with the newspapermen that may be regarded as significant, in view of the fact it had been reported that he intended to cancel his proposed Philippine trip in order to go on stump in Ohio. Replying to a direct inquiry, Taft said he intends to sail for the Philippines about September 1.

That Mr. Taft is the administration favorite of all the Republican presidential candidates has been known in Washington for many months. Whether Mr. Taft can attain the goal of his ambition remains to be seen. Out in his own state of Ohio he must battle for delegates with the regular party organizations, headed by Senators Foraker and Dick, unless a truce is patched up between the friends of Taft and the two Senators. Everybody who knows anything about politics knows that you can't run a first-class, up-to-date political machine without trimmings in the shape of patronage. In the Ohio fight Taft would seem to have the inside track, inasmuch as he is in the good graces of the Big Man who dispenses the good things, whereas Foraker is standing out in the cold. But, should it become apparent within the next six months that the Secretary of War is making no headway, he will undoubtedly take steps to make it known that he is not a candidate.

It would be hard to say whom the administration would put forward in such a contingency. In the meantime, an effort will be made to harmonize the differences between the factions in Ohio, and if that fails Mr. Taft will go in and make a fight against Foraker and Dick. If he wins his boom will be advanced; if he loses, his ambitions will have received a blow that may prompt the Secretary of War to change his mind about the presidency and perhaps after all he may don the ermine.

When the Taft boom was first launched some months ago the response from the country disappointed the administration leaders. Recently it has been received with more cordiality. The administration therefore waits and hopes.

In the meantime, Vice-President Fairbanks is making hay in the form of delegates; Shaw is nursing his boom; Cannon, from the West Indies, is watching developments, while Foraker believes that if he makes good in the Brownsville affair the lightning will strike him. The political pot is boiling over, although the Republican

national convention is a long way off. The indications are that in the coming 12 months Ohio will prove to be the dark and bloody ground of politics.

## BALLOON RACES.

### Pointers By Eastern Expert On Navigating Near Atlantic.

NEW YORK, April 23.—Alan R. Hawley of New York, who with Arthur T. Atherholt of Philadelphia, made an 85 mile balloon trip from Philadelphia, to Matteson, yesterday, has issued a warning to aeronauts that they must be careful in making balloon trips near the coast or the ocean will get them. He has observed, he said, that all the upper currents near the coast tend to carry the balloon out to sea.

Hawley is qualifying for the international balloon races to be held at St. Louis next October.

## LIVERY FIRE.

NEW YORK, April 23.—The Dispatch Stables at 130 to 142 Barrow street were burned early today. There were 130 horses in the building and most of these perished. The loss is estimated at \$50,000.

## JUSTICE OF PEACE A SUICIDE.

RIDGEWOOD, N. J., April 23.—E. W. Gardner, justice of the peace, and a wealthy resident of this place, killed himself with a pistol last night. Mrs. Gardner followed her husband to the door of an apartment occupied by a young woman. When Gardner saw his wife he drew a revolver and shot himself in the head.

## STOLE A TUGBOAT

### Deckhands About to Be Discharged Decamp With Vessel.

## WERE FINALLY CAPTURED

### At Point of Revolver in Hands of Another Tug Boat Captain, After Nearly Wrecking the Boat by Collision and Explosion.

NEW YORK, April 23.—Olaf Swedsten and Lor Larsen, two Swedish sailors ran away with a \$20,000 tug boat last night and were captured after an exciting chase on the East River, during which shots were fired and collisions barely averted, while the boat was constantly in danger of being blown up. The two Swedes, who knew they were going to be discharged by the McNeil Towing Company, their employers, conceived the insane idea of running away with the tug Florence on which they worked as deckhands. The boat had been tied up for the night in Bushwick Creek, but the men managed to get up steam and casting away the lines, started for lower New York bay.

Captain McNeill, of the tug Claremont, was notified and hastily manning his boat, pursued the Florence. The latter vessel had fully a half mile start, but the Swedes were almost without knowledge of how to handle a steamboat. They also took some foolhardy chances in the crowded river. They managed however, to keep the tug at almost top speed.

Captain McNeill kept the Claremont's whistle screaming for help. Several other tugs, attracted by the whistles, joined in the chase. As the Claremont gained on the fugitive tug McNeill leaned from the pilot house window and fired two shots and called on the Swedes to stop. They shouted back defiantly and dodged in and out among larger boats, past the navy yard and under the Williamsburg and Brooklyn bridges. The pursuit ended off Hamilton ferry, the Claremont being the faster tug of the two and better handled. When she drew abreast of the Florence McNeill levelled his revolver at the Swede in the pilot house and threatened to kill him. The Swedes gave up and the Claremont's crew bound the two men with ropes. They were locked up in a Brooklyn police station on a charge of grand larceny. They explained that they were only skylarking but McNeill is positive they meant to steal the tug.

They also came near blowing her up in their ignorance, he says.

## ROOSEVELT ANSWERS

### Flays Western Federation of Miners.

## MOYER AND HEYWOOD

### Stands Pat on His Former Statement and adds More To It.

## TRY TO INFLUENCE JUSTICE

### President Says They Not He Are the One Who Are Trying To Influence Justice—Moyer and Heywood Representatives of Bloodshed and Violence

WASHINGTON, April 23.—In a letter addressed to Honore Jackson, of Chicago, chairman of the Cook County Moyer-Heywood conference, made public today, President Roosevelt's replies to the criticisms of his recent letter in which he referred to Moyer and Heywood officials of the Western Federation of Miners, charged with implication in the Steunenberg murder as "Undesirable citizens." The president says he regrets that any body of men should so far forget their duty to their country as to, by the formation of societies or in other ways, endeavor to influence justice and coerce the court or jury; that they, not he, are trying to influence justice and he condemns what he calls their flagrant impudence in the matter. He says he indicated no opinion as to the guilt of the arrested persons but it was a simple absurdity to assume that because a man is on trial he is free from criticism as to his manner of life. He says he might as well be accused of trying to influence the suits against Harriman, some of whose friends had also criticized him. He said Moyer and Heywood stand as representatives of those men who have done as much to discredit the labor movements as the worst speculative financiers or the most unscrupulous employers of labor and debauchers of legislatures have done to discredit the capitalists and the fair dealing business men. He said that Moyer and Heywood stand as representatives of those who habitually appear as guilty of incitement, to an apology for bloodshed and violence.

## MICHIGAN AND RAILROADS.

### Hostility of State Prevents Development of Agricultural Resources.

NEW YORK, April 23.—The attitude of the State of Michigan towards the railroads is criticized in the annual report of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, just issued. Referring to the demands for a flat two-cent-a-mile passenger rate irrespective of conditions on individual lines, the report says that "This public outcry is unfortunate as the state is already well advertised in the financial world as hostile and unfair to its railroads."

As a result of the state's policy the report declares, little new railroad mileage has been constructed in Michigan in the past four years. Between 6,000,000 and 9,000,000 acres of good agricultural land that lie idle in the northern part of the state would be developed, the report says if the railroads were built into these sections. This land has been taken by the state in non-payment of taxes.

## HARRIMAN ON WITNESS STAND.

### Testifies Against former Stenographer in Trial At New York.

NEW YORK, April 23.—E. H. Harriman was the principal witness today at the final hearing in the case of Frank W. Hill, Harriman's former secretary who is charged with having sold, for publication, the now famous letter written by Harriman to Sidney Webster. The publication of which drew forth a spirited declaration from

President Roosevelt that the statements made by Harriman were untrue. Magistrate Wahle announced after the hearing that he would give his decision May 1. Harriman denied today that he ever gave permission to any newspaper to publish the letter. On the other hand he said when he learned that the letter was in possession of the New York World he tried, without success, to prevent its publication.

"When I learned it was in print I called up the American and told the man at the other end of the phone line that it was only fair to let him know that letter was to be published," said Harriman.

"Did you, then, give them permission to print the letter?" he was asked. "I did not."

Alexander Miller, Harriman's private secretary, testified, "That all the original copies of the letter are in his possession."

## STREET RAILWAY MUDDLE.

### At Cleveland in Which Mayor Tom Johnson is Concerned.

CLEVELAND, April 23.—The first chapter in the revival of Cleveland's street railway fight came today, when a temporary injunction was granted against Mayor Johnson and the Forest City Railway Company on the application of the Cleveland Electric Company operating on Central and Quincy avenues, where the Cleveland Electric's franchise has expired and on which lines the company proposes to suspend all operations at midnight tonight. The application for the injunction is based on the financial interest of Johnson in the Forest City Railway. Judge Ford set the hearing for the permanent injunction for eight o'clock tomorrow.

## LUMBER MILL FIRE

### Port Blakeley Mills Totally Destroyed By Fire.

## ESTIMATES DAMAGE \$750,000

### Fire Tugs Sent From Seattle and Assistance Rendered by Bluejackets—Started From Hot Box and Endangered the Workingmen's Homes.

SEATTLE, April 23.—Fire which broke out at 10:45 last night in the planer room of the Port Blakeley Mill Company's lumber mill at Port Blakeley, wiped out the entire plant, the largest lumber manufacturing establishment on the coast and one of the largest in the world, entailing a loss of between \$500,000 and \$750,000. Of this 50 per cent is covered by insurance, and the management of the mill said a new building will be begun at once.

The fire originated in a hot box. At the moment of discovery there was not a chance to save the mill. Flames shot up immediately, enveloping all that section of the plant. The night force was at work at the time and the 300 men were compelled to flee for their lives. All managed to escape.

Helpless to check the flames in the mill proper, the men turned their attention to saving the houses in Port Blakeley, many of which were not more than 800 feet from the fire. Every hose in the town was pressed into the service, and by the use of the reserve reservoir sufficient water was obtained to control the flames. Within a few minutes, 200 men with 20 hose were engaged in the work of saving the town. The main reservoir operated from the mill, was cut off.

The fireboat Snoqualmie, of Seattle, was sent for and put into port soon after midnight and with the Wyadda, which arrived 20 minutes later, have five two-inch streams of water playing on the flames. The fire-fighting is in charge of T. C. Ford, resident manager of the Port Blakeley mills. At this hour the mill is still burning. The plant was destroyed once before, 18 years ago, just before the great Seattle fire, when the loss was almost as large as at the present time.

At 3 a. m. the fire is under control. Bluejackets from the United States steamer Perry were landed and helped in checking the flames.

## TODAY'S BASEBALL SCORES.

At Oakland—San Francisco 6, Oakland 3.  
At Los Angeles—Los Angeles 3, Portland 2 (10 innings).

## PROTEST THE ADVANCE

### Willamette Lumbermen Before Commission.

## SOUTHERN PACIFIC ROAD

### Declares it Does Not Care to Handle Lumber Business More Money Elsewhere.

## WILL OPERATE HUGE BARGES

### Before They Will Submit To the Exorbitant Prices Asked by Railroad Hearing Before the Railroad Commission.

PORTLAND, April 23.—A special to the Oregonian from Salem says: The State Railroad Commission today held a hearing into the justness of the complaint made by the Willamette Valley lumbermen that the rate on lumber, of \$5 per thousand, recently put into effect by the Southern Pacific Company between Valley points and San Francisco is prohibitive. The complainants aver that their orders have been placed under the old rate of \$3.10 per thousand and they are morally bound to keep the contract. They also contend that although, situated on the Willamette River, the present rate to Portland is so high they cannot ship to that port and thence to San Francisco by water and compete with the Portland mills. The railroad, on the other hand, asserts it cannot do business at profit at the \$3.10 rate as it is compelled in the great majority of instances to haul cars north from San Francisco unloaded. The railroad men said further they prefer not to carry any lumber whatever as the cars cannot now be had in quantities sufficient to supply the demands of more profitable traffic.

The commission will not render a decision in the matter until the evidence is fully considered. In case the railroad men are upheld and the evidence presented is deemed sufficient to warrant it, an appeal will be taken to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

It developed after the commission adjourned that the up-river mills plan in case the railroads do not reduce the rates, they will put into operation large barges between their mills and Portland. They believe in that way they can force the roads to come to their terms.

## INTERNATIONAL FIGHTS.

### Englishman Wins Bantam Championship and America Middleweight.

LONDON, April 23.—A large crowd attended the two international fistic contests here tonight. Owen Moran, of Birmingham, defeated Albert Delmont, the American, in a 20-round bout for the bantam championship of the world and a purse of \$2000. Sam Langford (colored), an American, defeated "Tiger" Smith, a Welch fighter, in four rounds for the middleweight championship of the world and a purse of \$2000.

## MATT HICKS DEAD.

NEW YORK, April 23.—Matt Hicks, an old time baseball player, who played with the old New York Mutuals and the Cincinnati Red Stockings and was credited with being the first man to catch off the bat, was found dead in a room in Naegales Hotel in Hoboken yesterday. Hicks, who was the manager of the billiard room at the hotel, was asphyxiated by gas which had been turned on accidentally. He was 60 years old.

## GIFT OF MILLION.

### To Enable Negroes in South To Secure Better Education.

PHILADELPHIA, April 23.—The gift of a million dollars for the establishment of a fund for rudimentary schools for the southern negroes was announced here tonight. The donor is Miss Anna T. Jeanes a "Quaker" of this city. Booker Washington, head of the Tuskegee Institute, and H. B. Frissell, president of the Hampton Normal and Industrial Institute are named as trustees of the fund, but neither of those institutions are to share in the gift. The income is to be used for the sole purpose of assisting "Southern United States community, rural and county schools for the great class of negroes to whom the small rural and community schools are alone available."

Miss Jeanes is 80 years old, and comes from an old and wealthy family which for more than a century has been members of the Society of Friends.

## ARRANGED EFFECTS.

### Then Took Poison and Tried to Plung Into the Sea.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., April 23.—After selling to his brother today his half interest in a dairy in Carpinteria and mailing to his sister in Switzerland the \$1600 he received for it, Battista Lamarone today took poison. In a few seconds he was dead. Thirty-four cents were all that was found in his pockets. Lamarone evidently intended to jump from a wharf and end his life in the ocean. Men at the foot of the pier saw him rush for the rail but before he reached it he was dead.

## ARSENAL BURNED

### Believed to Have Been of Incendiary Origin.

## TOULON ARSENAL FRANCE

### Soldiers and Sailors Fight Fire and Over Thirty Are Injured by Falling Walls—Some of the Men Are Fatally Hurt—Inquiry is Being Conducted.

TOULON, France, April 23.—For sixth time within a few months this port has been stricken by disaster from fire and this time the resultant damage is principally material. Shortly after midnight a sentry at the arsenal noticed a glare of flames in the storehouse used for rope yarns, and at once gave the alarm and the soldiers, crews of the warships and employes of the arsenal were turned out to fight the flames which spread with incredible rapidity. The buildings in the vicinity of the storehouse contained 200,000 pounds of material with which to clean machinery, 60,000 pounds oakum, 5000 sponges, enormous quantities of ballast baskets, hampers, sail cloth, turpentine, linseed oil and other inflammables. Every available man was engaged in the efforts to control the conflagration. It was late this afternoon before the fire was reported under control. It is reported that more than 30 sustained injuries from falling walls and some are not expected to live. The finding of two pieces of fuse of the kind not used in the French navy has aroused suspicion that the fire was not altogether accidental. A rigorous inquiry is being conducted.

## ARMY CHANGES.

### Grant to Replace Greeley and Lotter Comes to Pacific.

CHICAGO, April 23.—Major General A. W. Greeley of the northern division of the United States army returned yesterday from an inspection trip in the eastern part of the division. Several posts were visited during his absence. The contemplated change of the general form the northern to the Pacific division with headquarters at San Francisco will not take place, it was announced yesterday, for several months. It is expected the change will not be made until May, when Major-General Frederick Dent Grant will probably return here to succeed General Greeley.